

4th Assault Amphibian Battalion

www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav/

January 2009

Commanding Officer's Comments

LtCol Darius Novickis
Commanding Officer

I want to wish each one of you, your Marines and Sailors, and all of your family and friends a very Happy New Year. I hope that all of you had the time to enjoy this holiday period with family and friends.

Our battalion continues to be part of history as we begin 2009, running in full stride. Just prior to Thanksgiving, the Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company --- along with 60 Marines from Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company --- returned to their homes, were demobilized, and are now adjusting back to civilian life. Job well done --- and they have earned their place in the history books of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are tremendously proud of their accomplishments.

After having superbly carried out the Provisional Rifle Company mission in Iraq, when Alpha Company begins its drills in April, the focus will shift to training with our Assault Amphibian Vehicles. We will strive towards meeting the future amphibious needs of the Marine Corps by training for our battalion's primary mission of providing amphibious lift for the 4th Marine Division.

Meanwhile, we have over 30 Marines preparing to

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Key Volunteer Update

Mr. Peter Nolan
Key Volunteer Coordinator

Happy New Year! We are embarking on a new era in government and we hope for a turnaround in the sluggish economy. By the time you read this you will be in the hands of our new family readiness officer. We wish the selected candidate success and the family readiness team will be there to support as always.

Well, we brought back our Marines from Iraq safely to their families at Thanksgiving. The homecoming was spectacular with police escort and freedom riders on their Harleys. They thundered into the HTC to a huge crowd of families and friends. The media was there in force and we've seen many of our Marines and families on the various news channels. Very exciting and well deserved! Thank you once again--you really make us proud.

At the present time, we are preparing our Marines for their next deployment to Iraq in the next few months after their extensive training. We wish them success in their missions and we will take care of their families while they are serving our nation. We will inform you of events planned during the deployment. The family readiness volunteers (previously called key volunteers), will be informing you of these events. As usual, we have a great series of events and activities for you to look forward to--so keep a look out for more info on these events. Those of you who expressed an interest in being a volunteer please contact me or my wife Lesley as we need to have a training session and we would like to know when you are available. And to our tireless volunteers, I would like to say thank you for your service and your dedication to our families. I hope you display your very well-deserved awards where all can see them and know that you are a caring and a highly thought of part of our support team.



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SgtMaj Message

SgtMaj Mingledorff
Battalion Sergeant Major

Greetings Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends of
4th Assault Amphibian Battalion!

As always, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support and motivation into the New Year. Your constant concern, interest, and involvement are critically important to the success of your loved one and to the overall success of this battalion. The Marines and Sailors of the battalion are in good hands, as the leadership provided by the NCO's, SNCO's, and Officers is outstanding. I continue to assure that you and your Marine or Sailor's welfare is a priority of this command. I look forward to my visits to all Company sites as well as meeting and visiting with each one of you all.

Semper Fidelis!

SgtMaj J.A.Mingledorff



Battalion Chaplain

LCDR Kirk Crocco
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies announce what his hands have made" (Ps. 19:1)

Years ago, while sailing with my MEU across the Pacific Ocean on our WESTPAC, I went out to the bridgewing of our ship one night. We were steaming along at 18 knots, with the low hum of the engine and a nice summer's breeze. It was a clear night with few clouds in the sky. Without all the lights you have from cities, one could literally see millions of stars. And that was what I saw. I stood there, in awe, amazed at God's work and creation. And there low on the horizon was the first time I saw the Southern Cross. Wow! (Or as my eleven year old daughter would say, "hacking cool!") How immense our universe and how powerful God truly is. And that's what the psalmist says when he writes 'the heavens declare the glory of God.'



That verse also reminds us that God is in heaven, and all the power he created the universe with is there for you when you pray. Our prayers, however don't change things, but God changes things when we pray to him. And when you do pray to God, he responds. He says "yes", he knows what you need. He has promised many, many times that he will take care of you and your loved ones. The creator of the universe, the one who dwells in the heavens, has all the power to bring light to your darkness, healing for your spirit, and hope in the midst of despair. Whether it's your marriage that needs help, your children who need protection, or yourself that needs deliverance, God tells us, as only he can, "I can handle that for you."

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USEFUL LINKS

Here are some useful Internet links. There are many more at the battalion website:

4th Assault Amphibian Battalion

www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav/

SpouseBUZZ is a virtual Spouse Support Group, a place where you can instantly connect with thousands of other milspouses. Here, we celebrate and embrace the tie that binds us all - military service.

www.spousebuzz.com

Marine Corps Community Services Deployment Support

www.usmc-mccs.org/deploy/

National Military Family Association

www.nmfa.org

MyPay

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Unless the option to receive a hardcopy was selected, all current Active/Reserve MyPay users who requested or already have a personal identification number (PIN) and accessed mypay will only receive an electronic W-2. You can view and download your W-2 after 7 Jan 2008.

mobilize in order to participate in a "float" throughout the Pacific. As part of Landing Force (LF) Cooperation and Readiness Afloat Training (CARAT), our Marines will provide Assault Amphibian support to the 24th Marine Regiment (another Marine Reserve unit) during exercises with Pacific host nations.

To add to all of this activity, Bravo Company mobilized in December and is conducting training for its upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are continuing their pre-deployment training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

There are many challenges in forming a cohesive, combat-ready unit, made even harder when the Marines, both Reserve and from the Inspector-Instructor Staff, are assembled from three of our sites around the country. Yet, the Marines and Sailors of Bravo Company, and H&S Company, have proudly, quickly, and capably forged a close-knit brotherhood, preparing to carry out their mission and uphold the traditions of our illustrious Corps of Marines with honor, courage, and commitment.

Again, I thank each one of you for the support you demonstrate to your Marines and Sailors as they serve our country. Your close involvement with our battalion was reflected by your enthusiasm in celebrating the Marine Corps birthday at the different site birthday balls in November. This was further clearly evident, not only from the several hundred family and friends who attended the Family Day in Tampa the day after the H&S Company ball, but also because almost everyone stayed late into the afternoon. And, it seemed like a good time was had by all.

I especially want to thank the Key Volunteer Coordinator and all of the Key Volunteers in our battalion for your dedication during the high operational tempo of 2008 -- your contributions are instrumental in the morale and welfare of our Marines, Sailors, and families. I know that our Marines and Sailors who have just returned from deployment are in good hands at home, and that this same family support will help carry Bravo Company through its deployment.

We have a long, decorated, and honorable past, and, because of everyone's diligence and continued efforts, our battalion will continue its vital role in our nation's history.

May all of you be rewarded with a fulfilling 2009.

Semper Fidelis!

Darius Novickis
Lieutenant Colonel
US Marine Corps Reserve



4TH ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BATTALION
5121 West Gandy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33611-3008